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DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

2/21/47

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

To: The Director  
From: The Executives Conference  
Subject: Investigative Techniques and Methods  
Suggestions

The Executives Conference on February 18, 1947, those present being Messrs. Tolson, E. A. Tamm, Glavin, Tracy, Harbo, Nichols, Ladd, Rosen and Clegg gave consideration to the attached memorandum which summarizes numerous letters received from field offices in response to Bureau instructions as to interesting methods of making investigations. The information was obtained primarily for the purpose of using such data in training schools. The suggestion was also made that this material be printed and transmitted to the field for the immediate information of all Agents. This suggestion was considered by the Executives Conference and it was unanimously recommended that this material not be printed and sent to the field but that it be used in instructional courses in the various training schools conducted at the seat of government.

Respectfully,  
For the Conference  
/s/ CT  
Clyde Tolson

/s/ EAT  
E. A. Tamm

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/14/90 BY SP-5 CJP/ML



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OK  
H.

66-2554

5841  
13 JAN 1955

MR. CLEGG

2/6/47

F. T. MCINTYRE

INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES AND METHODS;  
SUGGESTIONS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 11/14/90 BY SP-5C DAF

Reference is made to the attached tickler copy of a resume of special investigative techniques and methods voluntarily submitted by Special Agents in the field. As I mentioned in the memorandum dated January 27 transmitting this material, copies will be placed in the lecture files under the subjects to which they relate.

The opinion is expressed, however, that this procedure will confine the material to police instructors and other qualified Bureau representatives. It is believed that all Agents should have the advantage of investigative techniques submitted by their fellow Agents. As an example, there are 25 such techniques listed under the caption of "Fugitive Investigations." With this thought in mind the following is submitted:

SUGGESTIONS:

1. That this material, after careful review, be prepared in bulletin form for distribution to all Agents.
2. That from time to time a supplemental bulletin be issued as interesting techniques are received from the field.
3. That each supervisor at the Seat of Government be instructed to particularly note interesting techniques and methods in incoming reports and immediately write up same in bulletin form for the benefit of all Agents.

It is believed that this procedure will serve to correlate such material, stimulate voluntary participation by the Agents, maintain a fresh flow, and interchange of investigative ideas and in time create a vast reservoir for future reference.

FTH:WL

Attachment

ENCLOSURE

REFERENCE

It has been the experience of one field office that subjects and other individuals of foreign descent read respective local foreign newspapers very diligently so it was suggested, therefore, that there obvious leads to locate such persons do not exist. The placing of notices in the appropriate foreign language newspaper will very likely serve to locate such a person. Arrangements could be made with a particular newspaper to insert a notice to the effect that mail is being held at the newspaper office for such a person. In the event the alleged mail is called for, arrangements could be made to have that person detained pending the arrival of an agent.

One Agent has collected particular success in handling cases involving negroes by giving small amounts of money to negro children for the purpose of obtaining information in regard to the subjects in question.

In connection with one fugitive whose female associate was known to be pregnant, a successful effort in locating the fugitive was made by means of a survey of maternity hospitals in the vicinity of the fugitive's city.

With the assistance of a bank official at one Agent's bank, an account was opened by the Agent under an assumed name. The Agent subsequently mailed checks for nominal amounts payable to certain subject addressed to the subject at his present or former residence including some sort of plausible explanation for the payment in an endeavor to make the transaction appear as routine and innocent as possible. The Agent thereafter covered the recipient's outgoing mail and physical movements for some time by surveillance and other informants in an effort to ascertain if the check would be received or delivered to the subject.

In one case the subject had intimate relations with a great number of girls ranging in age from seventeen upward. An Agent made some inquiry into the background of the girls involved and found that in several cases the girls were engaged to soldiers overseas and elsewhere. Upon interview with these girls, it became evident to them that the Agent knew something of their background and apparently fearing that their indiscretions might be publicized, the girls gave information which led the Agent to the apprehension of the fugitive.

It is suggested that an excellent source of information as a race track is the kitchen. All employees of the track go there because the food is better and cheaper and usually a fugitive is caught at the race track, he would undoubtedly be known there.

One Agent stated that he has learned that honorably discharged colored soldiers will, if called upon, assist in locating deserters and selective service violators as such soldiers are proud of the fact that they have served in the Armed Services and guard jealously their records of service.

ENCLOSURE

NARRATIVE (Continued)

The following technique may be utilized in rural areas where a railroad is in progress. This technique utilizes the party-telephone system. This is possible because of emergency rings which the operator may use to call all persons on the party-line at the same time. All of these persons contacted can be alerted concerning the subject in one conversation. Thereafter, the operator must be kept continuously advised as to the whereabouts of the director of the railroad in order that each reported sighting of the fugitive can be given immediate attention.

In a number of instances it will be found that a fugitive will likely be traveling with a relative or friend who has not been in trouble and concerning whom information can more readily be obtained. In such cases inquiries concerning the relative or friend traveling with fugitive have resulted in contacting the fugitive in a very short time.

In approaching a place where the person sought is reliably reported to be residing, one Agent finds it a good practice never to ask for the person actually sought but rather gives a fictitious name. In many instances the reply to this question discloses that the Agent is talking to the person sought or to next member of the family.

In one case it was determined that the fugitive was employed at a certain foundry company. The records of that company indicated that the fugitive was away from work with a wounded back. An Agent and two officers desired to definitely determine if the fugitive was in his home prior to an actual lead. The Desk Sergeant telephoned the fugitive's home advising that he represented the foundry company and desired to know when the fugitive would return to work. During the conversation it was definitely determined that the subject was located in his home. The Desk Sergeant related this information to the Agent and two officers near the fugitive's home, culminating in a successful raid by the Agent and two officers.

When friends and relatives of a fugitive are apparently withholding information, his whereabouts might be determined by going to a public telephone booth in a town where a close friend or relative resides and requesting the name of this friend or relative place a person-to-person call to the subject in care of another close friend or relative in another town. This might eliminate the information being furnished to the long distance operator as to where the subject can be reached. In the event the subject picks up the telephone, it is very easy to form a description.



MEMORANDUM (Continued)

In connection with an investigation with respect to a known fugitive, information was developed that he was frequenting a negro tavern in the vicinity. Interviews with the tavern operator determined that the tavern operator was unavailable. Thereafter the Agents, working on a hunch, would visit the tavern every day late in the afternoon when it was crowded. The Agents during this visit did not contact the proprietor but merely walked in and down looking over all of the people in the place. After a week of these visits the decline in business was very noticeable and the proprietor suddenly was able to remember the subject and furnish information as to his whereabouts.

One Agent suggested sending a 25¢ telegram Western Union Money Order in care of the subject's mother or other close relative. The delivery boy is requested not to deliver the money order to anyone but the addressee and not to inform anyone as to the source or amount. In a number of instances the forwarding address of the subject has been furnished so that the money order could be forwarded. Upon the return of the delivery boy, the money order is cancelled.

Where the fugitive is the father of a small child, there appears to be a tendency on the part of the subject's parents to be more concerned about their grandchild than the subject himself. It is possible that an opportunity will arise during the interview when it can be shown to the parents that if the subject is allowed to remain at liberty for an extended period of time the later apprehension and imprisonment will react unfavorably on the children who will be of such age that their father's misdeeds and record would become a blight to their reputation.

Apparently it is the practice of a good number of people who are transients or who temporarily live in boarding houses that they periodically place in pawn shops articles of value. It may be possible by checking the loan or pawn shops in their neighborhood to locate the current address of the subject.

Pawn shops in small cities also keep a chronological record of each article pawned and in the event information has been received that the subject has pawned an article on a definite date, a quick check of the records in pawn shops in a neighborhood may be made by checking daily records of articles pawned.

In one case it was determined that the fugitive desired to proceed from Birmingham, Alabama, to Miami, Florida. The Birmingham Office intended an advertisement in the classified portion of a local newspaper requesting the services of a young man who could drive an automobile to Miami. The unfilled office telephone number was given in the classified advertisement. Numerous calls were received but when checked were negative. However, the procedure might be profitably used in some special fugitive cases.

MEASURES (Continued)

In an effort to apprehend a fugitive, investigation disclosed that the subject was a regular fan and frequently visited the race tracks. It was determined that the subject was at a particular track. Agents proceeded there and had the subject paged over the loud speaker system. The subject obligingly and promptly entered the cage and was just as promptly taken into custody.

Keep the fugitive's family and liquor store near the sheriff or local officer inform the family that the FBI has evidence concerning, or photographs of, their liquor selling activities which they contemplate turning over to the Internal Revenue if the subject is not produced.

In connection with negro fugitive investigations, the following pretense has not been unusual success. Contact was had with the laundry truck driver covering the negro section of town and the Agent would accompany the laundry truck driver to the possible abode of a fugitive and immediately call on the door while the laundry truck was parked in front of the house and use the pretext of having a package of laundry to deliver for the wanted fugitive.

It is possible at times to determine from a child member of a family the whereabouts of a fugitive through by acquiring his friendship through a small gift of candy.

In looking for fugitives of high school age, consideration might be given to contacting high school teachers. In many instances they are able to supply names of girl and male friends with whom the Agent may communicate which information is not given by friends of the fugitive or by his family.

In important fugitive cases, at times, it has been found advantageous to utilize the services of a field office female employee in placing a telephone call to a subject. In one such case it was determined that a prostitute was to call the subject at 12:00 noon at a certain telephone number. A Bureau stenographer who was a quick thinker and an especially good conversationalist made the call impersonating the prostitute. This developed information as to the fugitive's whereabouts and resulted in effecting his apprehension.

Consider approaching the parent of the wife of a deserter regarding non-receipt of a dependency check to determine information about the subject.

Consider having the U. S. Attorney subpoena the family of a deserter to his office for questioning upon the basis of a possible contemplated harboring violation.

EXHIBIT (Continued)

The following agencies have been found of material assistance in the investigation of fugitives who are deserters or veterans of the armed forces, the Navy Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Family Allowance Division, U. S. Navy, Cleveland, Ohio, acts as a dispersing office for the Bureau of Navy Personnel, Washington, D. C. in matters of allowances and allotments for the Navy. The Bureau for Supplies and Accounts therefore has on record the names and latest addresses of dependents of any service man for whom an allowance has been obtained and also the family record in regard to individuals to whom the service man has designated an allowance. Through this source it also has been possible to receive the name and latest address of the family of the subject.

Actors, through, carnival and rodeo performers, etc., who are in almost constant travel status may often be located through Bill Board Manager of Cleveland, Ohio.

An Agent had information that a colored fugitive was in a certain location and a search was suggested by the situation. The subject, one Benson, was hiding out with Carol Taylor. The Agent, after stationing a police officer at the back door, went to the front door accompanied with another detective and informed Carol Taylor that he was seeking Benson Taylor, knowing no such person resided there, and asked to search the house. She consented to such a search and Benson was found to be hiding in the basement.

The method used by an Agent in ascertaining the information as to residence or background of an individual suspected of residing at a certain location is to make inquiry concerning an individual whose name would fit the suspect but is spelled differently. Then the person who is being questioned corrects the Agent as to the correct spelling of the individual residing therein reference is made to the alleged occupational or fictitious background of the person. This leads to further correction and leads to further conversation during which the Agent is able to bring the conversation around again in an indirect way to background information concerning the person about whom the inquiry is actually being made.

In making fugitives, Agents should always be alert as to the assistance rendered by cooperative newspapers. A specific example is the case of a German prisoner of war who was apprehended as a direct result of a newspaper in a local paper which asked hunters to be on the alert for the prisoner on the opening day of the season.

Sometimes while interrogating cooperative friends and relatives, it is beneficial to inquire for any correspondence they may have received from the fugitive. A study of the foregoing discloses information as to associations, etc., which the parents or friends had neglected to mention.



Summary (Continued)

The photograph and description of a fugitive disclosed that he was semi-tall and had a prominent nose on the top of his head. Believing that he was in a certain section of the city, an Agent checked the barber shops and made a positive identification of the subject due to the fact that a barber remembered the head near which was very prominent to the barber and it was determined that the fugitive resided in one of the cheaper hotels in the locality.

In connection with the search for a Negro fugitive, it was believed that he was located in a certain colored section of a large city. The cooperation of the manager of the local colored theater was secured in connection with a regularly scheduled "hot night". This "hot night" attracted a crowd of Negro patrons. Arrangements were made with the manager on these nights to announce as one of the winners of an award, the name of the Negro fugitive. This resulted in the subject answering his name on one particular hot night and he proceeded to the stage to claim his award. As the fugitive was leaving the stage, going through the wings of the theater after shining his pants, he was taken into custody by an Agent.

In cases where the location of distinctive articles or persons is located by an Agent, the assistance of fellow Agents could be secured by means of bulletin board notices and through the regular Agent conferences. As an illustration, an Agent, in endeavoring to locate a fugitive, was looking for a certain type of gun. He mentioned this to an Agent conference resulting in one Agent advising that he had noticed such a gun trapped in the back of a car in the corner garage. This lead resulted in the apprehension of a fugitive.



### SURVEILLANCES AND PAYOFFS

The following procedure may possibly be used to advantage in tailing a subject in a large city. The subject goes into one of the prominent motion picture theaters and can easily be lost in taking a seat in the darkest inside area. In one such surveillance it was ascertained that after the end of the picture the theater goes on dim lights so that patrons can more conveniently enter or take their seats. Through the cooperation of the theater management, the lights were turned on extremely bright at the conclusion of the picture for a time so that investigating Agents could look over the patrons and ascertain and identify each the subject.

In a bribery case the only offense the man offered bribes was to meet certain individuals on a particular street corner of a busy street near the Army Base at a certain time to receive the bribe money. In covering this payoff, one of two Agents dropped in clothes similar to those of the Army Base explosion and stationed themselves on the street near the payoff corner. Automobiles were run also for the use of a truck which had X-ray lenses installed in its rear doors. The truck would be either parked across the street from the place or would be driven very close by the Agent and called, if necessary, so that motion pictures could be taken of the payoff.

In such extortion cases, it will be noted that various situations arise where it is impossible to maintain a discrete surveillance over a long period of time. In one such case the payoff instructions were such that it was only possible to conduct a surveillance of the payoff during the night time. There was no set time for the payoff; consequently a note to the extortioner was left at the payoff spot, having been placed in the designated place the first night following the run was too large to leave lying around. The note urged the extortioner to further communicate with the victim. This resulted in another letter being received from the extortioner the next morning payoff location during the daytime. This second payoff could be more advantageously covered by Agents and the subject was apprehended at the payoff during the daytime hours.

In connection with a surveillance at a post office, a banner and doorbell were employed. Upon the instructions of the postmaster, the banner and button were installed under the ledge of the General Delivery Window. The banner was placed in the office of the postmaster. The postal clerk was requested to press the button of the banner when anyone called for the subject's mail. Upon the signal this resulted in the apprehension of the fugitive.

On one occasion the physical nature of a neighborhood made a maintained station surveillance particularly difficult especially in Communist areas. In overcoming this difficulty, one Agent supplied himself with a few "Watch Tower" books of the Jehovah's Witnesses and pretended to sell them. This enabled the Agent to stand in one place for long periods of time without arousing suspicion.

INVESTIGATIONS AND TIPS (Continued)

One Agent arranged to have a microphone in an automobile and then run the wires from the auto to an amplifier in the trunk of the car. The Agent then concealed himself in the trunk of the car and listened to a conversation between an informant and the person to whom the subject's whereabouts were known.

A payoff in one particular case was to be held in the basement of the subject's residence. A search of the basement revealed that there were no suitable places for the concealment of an Agent. A large cardboard wardrobe was obtained from one of the local transportation companies and was placed in the subject's home. This wardrobe was so arranged in the basement that it appeared the wardrobe had been there for a considerable length of time. An Agent who concealed was able to cover the payoff and entire conversation with excellent results.

In a National Bank case an unknown employee of the bank was periodically stealing money from one of the teller's cages during the lunch hour period. The bank was so constructed that normal visitors pointed for a surveillance were not available. Accordingly, the Special Agents arranged to have a large packing box constructed and to have prep holes made in this box. Money was placed in the teller's cage, this money being marked and processed with quilled dyes. The packing box was located on a bench located in front of the bank's window, and the Agents could observe the teller's cage. A middle-aged female employee of the bank was observed to go into the teller's cage and take some of the marked money. The Agents immediately entered the bank and found this woman near one of the lavatories where she was explaining that she was unable to reach some purple cigarettes from her hands. A search of the woman revealed the money she had stolen from the cage.

A fugitive who was supposed to have resided at a particular address was not at home and it was necessary to determine whether the house was presently occupied. In order to ascertain whether the door had been opened since a previous visit, a broken toothpick was placed in the crack of the door so that upon their return the Agents would be able to determine if the house had been entered by anyone.

In one attention case it was ascertained the extortionist had placed a shell to the payoff man. By the use of a non-tell tested in yesterday, it was determined by the style of the shell and out of a tree the extortionist was left-handed. This eliminated other than left-handed subjects.

High surveillance of automobiles are justified if it is possible to practically take a trail and in the full light of the subject's surveillance.

It has been determined in connection with microphone surveillance, particularly where contact microphones are used, that often adhesive tape, which is ordinarily used to hold the contact microphone to the wall or door, leaves a clear outline on the wall or door after the microphone is removed. To avoid any possible detection, it has been found that a very efficient way of removing the traces of adhesive tape is to utilize a piece of Scotch tape, placing it over the outline indicated on the door or wall and lifting the adhesive tape. This results in having the adhesive tape portions adhere to the Scotch tape and such action removes any traces of adhesive tape.

### STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

When conducting a physical surveillance after dark and it becomes necessary for the Agent to surveil the subject in an automobile when the subject is walking, it is not as noticeable if the Agent will turn out his lights and have the car move very slowly leaving the curb. As a consequence if the person turns around, the impression is given that the car is not moving and the subject will not detect an automobile is following him.

During the course of night surveilling, Agents at any time when seated in an automobile may be challenged by police officers who are in the vicinity. The officers in such circumstances are tense and have an itchy trigger finger. In such circumstances the Agent should never reach for his credentials to show they are FBI representatives. They should maintain their hands on the steering wheel or in a similar position in plain view while orally explaining their identity.

On one occasion it was possible for an Agent to assume the role of a ticket agent at the window in a railway station. The subject's reservations were made up in advance so that the Agent would have no technical difficulties in discussing the reservations with the subject. When the subject approached the window the Agent was able to get complete information relative to his destination, length of visit, type of accommodations, return trip, etc.



EXHIBIT

In certain types of cases, where circumstances warrant, the desired information may possibly be obtained through cooperation of other Federal agencies such as the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, questioning the suspect under the pretext that he is an alien and thus requiring his complete personal history and background.

In an extortion case the suspect was operating a mail case. An Agent in the company of a local detective entered the cafe for coffee. The conversation, within the hearing of the suspect, dealt with the art of reading handwriting and a cousin of the Agent who was an expert in this line. The Agent cited several cases where his cousin had been able to pick lucky days for people after analyzing their handwriting. The suspect who was also an active gambler became very much interested in the conversation and requested that he be allowed to give the Agent a specimen of his handwriting for examination by the supposed cousin. The specimen voluntarily offered by the suspect to the Agent culminated in a positive identification by the laboratory.

In one case the assistance of a moving company was employed. An Agent acting as a member of the moving crew actually assisted in the moving operations in which the personal and household effects of an espionage Agent were moved from a town in South Jersey to New York City. Through the cooperation of another large trucking concern, the truck in question was driven into a garage and a confidential photographic inspection of the subject's papers was made.

In many instances the negro population are susceptible to insurance sales talks particularly from salesmen representing burial societies. A great deal of information can be obtained by these insurance salesmen who are usually white persons. On occasions it has been possible to develop information by securing the cooperation of such salesmen questioning Negro families under the pretext of collecting their insurance policies.

It was necessary to discreetly determine background information on a certain well known author. It was difficult to discreetly determine this information due to the fact that the subject lived on a country estate just outside a small town. An Agent directed a letter to her publisher under a fictitious name stating that the writer, a young lady, was very much interested in learning about the author's private life and how she happened to become interested in labor affairs in China. A fictitious address was given. Shortly thereafter the Agent was in receipt of a copy of the author's information most concerning through the identical information concerning the author which the subject had submitted to her publisher. This was the identical information desired by the Agent in his background investigation.



### PRETEXTS

In connection with Negro fugitives, one Agent has found it desirable to equip himself with papers, usually an accounting pad, on which he places a mass of fictitious names and other types of fictitious information. He enters the building in which the subject is believed to live or the building next to it, contacting individuals under the pretext he is either taking a census or is attempting to obtain employment for someone. In questioning an individual, he asks him the names and places of employment of various persons living in the building. With this information he has ascertained on several occasions whether the subject is actually in the building and where employed.

One Agent telephonically contacted a subject of a Communist case and told him he was in charge of circulation of a Communist newspaper, the "Chicago Sun" and was anxious to get his home address so he could be sent complimentary copies for the next six months. The subject was then asked to give other persons and addresses who the newspaper had sent to and he did so. The subject then gave names and addresses many of which were subjects of pending cases.

The present acute shortage in housing affords an excellent pretext to secure information about tenants under the pretext of securing housing accommodations. Data may be obtained through inquiry of landlords and managers about the occupants and whether any vacancies are anticipated in the near future.

Another pretext used in Communist cases is to employ the pretext of working for a local finance company. The Agent calls upon the subject and tells him that his account had been received from the New York Office of the finance company for collection. The subject, of course, emphatically denies ever having borrowed from the New York Office and thereafter furnishes considerable information regarding his background for the purpose of proving he is not identical with the person who had borrowed money in New York.

Entry into a home can be accomplished under the pretext of being a buyer or real estate agent. This also gives opportunity to gain access to the entire premises and allow casing of the place for the best location for technical equipment. This is particularly apposite during the present housing shortage.

Sometimes favorable results may be secured under pretext by telephonically posing as a representative of the H. L. Folk Company, the nation's largest publisher of city directories.

### PRETEXTS

In a Theft from Interstate Shipment Case, within a few days after the crime, place an ad in the papers advertising for some part of the loot. As persons reply to this ad, obtain their name and address and then conduct an investigation to determine where that person obtained the material in question.

In an investigation of Interstate Transportation of Obscene Matter, one Agent was able to work into the group producing and merchandizing the obscene products by becoming a salesman of such film and eventually becoming invited to participate in the production of various obscene pictures.

In one case it was necessary to maintain a twenty-four hour surveillance on a subject. The subject lived with his father-in-law who operated a rooming house near Harvard University, thereby making it impossible to gain access to the subject's room. An Agent dressed as a college freshman, provided with the necessary books, registered at Harvard. He left every morning for school; however, during various hours he had access to the subject's room inasmuch as he had in the meantime obtained a room in the house operated by the subject's father-in-law. The Agent also became acquainted with the subject and they became quite good friends. Through this method, the personal belongings of the subject were readily available and all the necessary information was obtained.

One Agent represented himself as a feature writer for a syndicate when interviewing a representative of a commercial concern. By presenting a cigar and assuming a breezy attitude, the individual interviewed talked quite freely and furnished the desired information.

An Agent, in order to obtain a photograph of a certain woman, posed as a child photographer and was admitted to the home of this woman to take pictures of the child. At the same time he actually obtained photographs of the mother without her being aware of this action.

Quick information can be obtained at times by merely calling on the telephone the subject under the pretext that the Agent is a clerk at the subject's local draft board and thereby verify his residence and place of employment.

In Communist investigations, one Agent finds it helpful to employ the pretext of making a survey of persons available for employment in order to procure from the subject, himself, information relative to his background.

Nationwide services of public opinion have become so common that they now afford an opportunity of operating under a pretext as a representative of the Gallup Poll.



DETAILS

One Agent who has had considerable past experience with automobile dealers and as a car collector has posed as a collector pretending to be interested in purchasing or selling the automobile of the subject or person from whom information is desired. This has resulted in obtaining basic information such as place of employment, occupational abilities, use to which car is put, use for long trips or city driving, name of person who made repairs, point of purchase, organization through which financed, car registration date. This and similar questions have been asked and not considered too much out of line for the average car salesman.

A recent problem confronting a field office had reference to obtaining information from a subject's apartment. The following procedure was adopted after other means had failed. Suitable arrangements were made with the landlord, it being noted that a cracked or broken window existed in the subject's apartment. To repair the window, the subject was advised by the landlord that the repair of this window was to be made by glaziers and that it would be necessary to remove the entire window to install the glass as the window frame had been warped, and it was necessary to straighten same. The window in question was fitted in the room of the subject's premises where the desired information was located. A further ruse was undertaken by Agents due to the damp, cold weather and the subject, at the suggestion of the landlord, left the apartment and visited friends during the installation of the window inasmuch as the subject had a young child and it was felt that removing the window would render the apartment too cold for the infant's comfort.

The "pay-off" in an extortion case was designated as being the rear of a church yard. It so happened that on the pay-off night a Fellowship church social had been scheduled. In order that the designated spot might be more appropriately covered, Special Agents with the necessary camouflage and appearance visited the church social on the pretext of being "deacons" from another church of the same denomination and thereby were able to secure a vantage spot in a secluded room in the rear of the building in which the social was being held without arousing suspicion. Thereafter, the subject was apprehended attempting to secure the extortion package after the social was over.

In one Selective Service Case, numerous inductees had been suspected of colluding on the intelligence examinations given at the induction station and thereby receiving A-F classifications. An Agent was assigned to be inducted at Birmingham, Alabama, and to travel with the group of inductees to Ft. McClellan at Anniston, Alabama. He carried out his part of an ignorant inductee so well that the subject of this case, among others, confided to the Special Agent as to how he, the subject, intended to evade induction by answering correctly only a few of the propounded examination questions at the induction station. This subject did, in fact, fail his intelligence examination but upon interview by another Agent he readily admitted his action and his previous conversation with the Agent who had made the pretext. Incidentally, he stated he just wanted to talk to someone about his proposed plan to avoid induction and picked out the Agent as being the "dullest looking" inductee in his group.

### REFERENCE

It has been found to be of assistance to carry an extra suit and woman's gloves in order to provide a suitable pretext to approach doorman in exclusive clubs and apartments for the purpose of inquiring as to the identity of unknown contact who has entered the house or club.

In a Theft of Government Property case an Agent contacted the City Fire Marshal and arrangements were completed whereby the Agent would accompany the Fire Marshal to the premises where the loot was reported to have been stored. Upon arriving on the premises, a drive-in and eating establishment, the Agent proceeded to accompany the Fire Marshal and no questions were asked as to his identity. The Fire Marshal in making a complete inspection for Fire hazards was accompanied by the Agent from the basement to the attic of the establishment. As a result thereof, the Agent discovered stolen property on the premises.

One Agent found it advantageous to advise the mother of a fugitive that he had a government representative endeavoring to locate her son in order to pay him his army bonus. This pretext was successful in view of the fact that the U. S. Army is paying bonuses for overseas service, dangerous duty, discharge bonus, etc.

In one case it was necessary to maintain a continued surveillance of a railroad station. Such a surveillance over a long period of time would naturally create suspicion. Accordingly, the cooperation of a station-master was secured. Two railroad jackets and caps were obtained and worn by two Agents who played the part of railroad employees conducting a survey relative to travel on that railroad.

The following method has been suggested for getting into an apartment: A Negro maid was stopped by Agents leaving the apartment under the pretext that the Agents were plain clothemen of the Chicago Police Department. She was told that a woman fitting her description was known to be stealing from apartments and it was desired that her keys be examined. These keys were taken by one Agent to a car parked nearby and the number and make impression obtained. Another Agent appeared at this time saying that they had arrested the right woman from the street and were sorry to have bothered her.

In order to determine whether a suspect had been home on a particular evening the pretext was used of being an employee of Dr. Gallup. The Agent taking this part stated that a poll was being taken to determine which radio station had the largest listening audience. It was important to determine if the suspect had been at home at the time of the Bob Hope broadcast and no questions were asked concerning this program that evening and also to what station he had been listening. There was a possibility that the suspect had heard the program some other place but if he had been there he was suspected of being he would not have heard it.



### INTERVIEWS

In interviewing Mexicans, it is suggested that the Agent be extremely polite and courteous. Mexicans in most instances are slow to respond and usually will not cooperate with anyone until some kind of relationship especially interesting to them has been employed. It is accordingly suggested that the conversation originally revolve around something of particular interest to Mexicans such as their pursuit of life, their property, hobbies and anything to which they may be readily conversant.

In some instances the identity of the suspect has been acquired by the subject. There the Agent is satisfied that the suspect is not the person in question he might ask the subject who looks enough like him and knows sufficient information about his background and history to impersonate him. This on occasions may result in information given by the suspect as to some person who heretofore had not crossed his mind.

During the course of interrogation of witnesses in connection with investigations of Theft of Government Property cases, one Agent has found it advantageous to place a metal box in which a stolen piece of government property has been stored on a table where the suspects and witness could view the same. During the questioning the possible suspect was asked, "Could there be any reason for your fingerprints being on the inside of this metal box?" This has resulted in admission of guilt by subjects even though there were no latent fingerprints whatsoever inside the box.

During the course of interviews with Negro suspects, it was found that two suspects were exceedingly religious. The Agent in both instances placed a Bible on a nearby table in full view of the suspect. In both instances during the course of the interview and when properly emotionally aroused, the suspect would ask the Agent to read several pages from the Bible. This culminated in a confession.

BANK BURGLARY

In one such case it was necessary to determine whether a certain window was broken inside or outside the particular room. The remainder of the window pane was colored on one side with a soft crayon, was removed piece by piece and was carefully packed and shipped to the FBI Laboratory. Because of the crayon coloring on one side of fragments the laboratory was enabled to reconstruct the window pane and determine which side had been struck.

In a bank robbery case the subject, after considerable investigation, was apprehended through the use of analine dye. In this case the bank had been entered on numerous occasions by the burglar and small amounts of money had been stolen from the vault. An Agent took two \$5 bills and five \$1 bills, recording the serial numbers and sprinkling them with analine dye, and left them in the vault in a conspicuous place. These bills were subsequently stolen from the bank. The dye causes the bills to turn a dark blue and made them very noticeable. Contact was had with several service stations, theaters, stores and banks in adjoining towns with the request that they be on the lookout for counterfeit blue bills. Shortly thereafter a bank in an adjoining town furnished the Agent with two \$1 bills which were identical with the bills stolen from the bank, these bills having been brought to the bank by a well-known boot-legger who upon contact advised that he had received the money from an unknown Negro who worked on the railroad, and who lived in the town where the money had been stolen. As a result the Negro was located and confessed to the burglary of the bank.

### SEARCHES OF PLACES

In a recent investigation it was necessary to search a partially wooded rural area approximately four miles square for a very small object. In order to do this, two Taylorcraft airplanes were chartered and the search was made from the airplanes flying at a low altitude. The Agents were able to observe extremely small objects and were able to search the area in great detail. It is believed that this method might be employed to advantage in many situations where a search on foot would be impracticable. It could be used not only in locating small objects but in locating hide-outs or possibly in covering extortion plans. In most cases this type of search could be made without arousing any suspicion in view of the increasing traffic in small airplanes.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

In cities throughout the country there are photographic companies who make it their business to have their cameramen take candid photos of people as they walk along the street. The cameramen pass out cards bearing the number of the photo taken. Several Agents have found it advantageous to pose as such cameramen and to place themselves in locations which they had determined the subject would pass. In this connection, a camera of the type used by the street cameramen can generally be procured from a photographer who operates such a business. Cards should be obtained from the same source.

It has been found beneficial in eliminating the reflection of light from the circular parts of the motion picture camera when taking pictures where you have to be unobserved to take these parts off, thereby permitting the camera and operator to blend in any dark background and reduce the chances of being observed.

In an illegal wearing and impersonation case, home amateur colored 8 mm. movie films were taken by the family of the subject at his wedding, showing him wearing the uniform of an officer illegally, were shown in the courtroom at his trial very effectively.



### CONFESSIONS - TECHNIQUES IN OBTAINING

When the subjects are Catholics it may be impressed upon them during an interview, the importance of going to confession with a clear conscience so that in making their confessions they will be able to tell the Priest that they are not guilty of falsification in their confession. Immediately contact subjects after returning from confessional has expedited obtaining of confessions.

It has been possible to break the alibi of a subject through having him tell a story in minute detail taking careful notes and then having him repeat the story. Through subsequently pointing out to him numerous discrepancies between his two stories his alibi is shown to be false and he has thereafter reversed his position and told the truth.

Occasionally a subject may be tripped up in an alibi if the Agent is familiar with the hazards of the occupation the subject claims to follow. This was illustrated where the subject alibied he had been picking cotton. It was observed he became somewhat nervous when the subject was temporarily shifted to the price of cotton. Examination of his hands disclosed they were not rough and call-worn and did not have the usual minute scratches resulting in work with dry cotton bolls. Upon this being pointed out to him the subject changed his story and told the truth.

One Agent recommends that a statement be taken from a subject as soon as possible without any effort being made to contradict him. Thereafter the subject is approached more vigorously and fully impressed with the fact that the matters contained in the statement are not true. This according to the Agent on several occasions has culminated in obtaining a confession.

SELECTIVE SERVICE

Where a likely subject is found in a fictitious registration case, the subject may be taken, with his permission, to the local board and his handwriting and signature compared with that appearing on the registration card.

Where the identity of the subject is known, it has been found helpful, if he is known to be married, to contact the subject's wife's parents. In many instances the Selective Service files will reflect whether or not a subject is married and give the date of marriage and place where license was issued or ceremony performed.

REPORT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

In one instance a theft was reported from an Army Air Base of 9,000 pounds of government-issued butter. Contact was had with the Sanitation Division of the city and the County Board of Health. Inspectors of the Board of Health made a routine inspection of various restaurants and discovered two dozen pounds of butter in plain wrappers in an ice box of a small restaurant. This led to the identification of many other recipients of stolen butter, all of the butter being accounted for. It is believed that the cooperation of the Board of Health inspectors could be utilized in similar types of cases.



DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION

In one case the parents of two brothers who had not registered under the Selective Service Act, exhibited the Family Bible when first contacted by Special Agents. They claimed that their births as recorded therein precluded them from the necessity of registering under the Act. The Agents secured this Bible and transmitted same to the FBI Laboratory for examination with the result that the laboratory was able to advise that the Bible had not been published until several years after the dates of the recorded births of these subjects. It later was revealed that through a conspiracy the parents of the subjects had attempted to "erase" the Bible by dampening and exposure to sunlight.

In one instance an Agent had obtained numerous handwriting specimens from a suspect. The Laboratory requested additional specimens after the suspect had been contacted on numerous occasions. On the next contact he emphatically refused to submit further specimens, stating that he was a busy man and that he received a dollar an hour in his occupation. The Agent offered to him one dollar for an hour in obtaining handwriting specimens. The suspect readily agreed.

EXHIBIT

The following suggestion is valuable only in a small town where men often are familiar with the handwriting of the various inhabitants. The handwriting on an extortion note was identified as the result of exhibition of handwriting on the envelope containing the extortion note to various cashiers or tellers in the local banks.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Practically no noise is made in walking through the woods if feet are wrapped in sand bags.

Information concerning the evening activities of a physician can be determined in any instance through an inspection of the records of the Physician's Service Bureau. This organization which functions in most cities serves the medical profession through the operation of an after-hours switchboard through which all late calls for physicians are received. The doctors report their availability there regularly and records are maintained covering their whereabouts.

Many reputable attorneys and lawyers who are not scrupulous can be of assistance to investigating agencies if they are properly developed and properly handled.

In a number of cases, depending upon importance of the case, it may be desirable to assign a Special Agent to the community where he is born and reared. In such cases where the subject resides in the community, the Agent will be able to contact various individuals on a confidential basis and in that manner obtain information which otherwise would not have been obtained.

When entering an apartment where there is a vicious dog, consider the use of long pocket gloves used by Ford employees of EPA to prevent being bitten.

There dogs guard a house, consider obtaining a female dog in heat to act as a lure.

Since last year, a signal obtainable at drug stores, is offensive to dogs and they will not approach a man who has worn upon him.



CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

In a White Slave Traffic case it was desired to obtain information as to the inmates of a certain house of prostitution. A colored maid who had been developed as a confidential informant obtained a job in this particular house of prostitution and she was able to obtain valuable inside information from the house. She looked through personal belongings and even searched wastepaper baskets, bringing out letters to the Agents in the solos of her shoes. The information developed by the informant culminated in a raid of the house and a successful completion of the case.

A city editor of a local newspaper has developed into a valuable special contact or confidential informant. This has worked repeatedly in one city with excellent results. If the city editor does not have a desired photograph in his files, he would on his own initiative send a newspaper photographer out to secure a photo of the person in whom the Bureau was interested.

A confidential informant was developed in connection with a woman against whom the authorities had a very real case. She was questioned by Bureau Agents along strictly routine lines. Upon later arrangement with the police, when the local case collapsed and she was released, the officers admonished her that she could thank the FBI for "beating the rap." She was extremely grateful and this was of great assistance in subsequently developing her to furnish information regarding vice conditions.

In order to obtain pictures of suspects in Communist cases, one Agent has found it to be advantageous to loan a confidential informant a camera and allow this informant to take numerous pictures of the subjects at social gatherings and other events. The informant then later identified the individuals in the pictures.

LOCK Picking

It is possible to make a good impression of a key by pressing the key between two wet fingers and thereafter stamping on them.

When a key is obtained in an envelope which cannot be opened without this being evident, have an X-ray made of the key through the envelope and have an expert locksmith make a duplicate from the photograph.

One agent found a lock pin which had been carefully placed in the key-way of a tumbler lock to prevent the insertion of a key. It was only by reason of careful examination of this lock that the silver or metal was detected and removed so that the particular lock could be opened.

In order to gain access to an office an instrument, similar to that used by electrical houses in removing and inserting electrical bulbs in places not readily accessible by hand, was used. To briefly describe the instrument which was utilized, it consists of a long handle similar to a screw handle and attached to one end are approximately five wire prongs, semi-circular in shape, being so attached that the prongs extend in such a fashion as to cover a diameter of approximately one inch. The prongs are each covered with elastic and are necessarily flexible. The instrument in question was successfully utilized by placing the end in through the transom of the office door and reaching down so that the end of it when placed over the knob of the inside of the door caused it to successfully turn and open the door when the necessary pressure was exerted.

NATIONAL POLICE VEHICLE THEFT ACT

In some instances valuable evidence has been found by Agents in search of an automobile 90 days after its recovery even though the stolen automobile had previously been examined by police officers. The search by the latter, in some instances, is negligible.

When fingerprints are developed on an abandoned automobile in an Unknown Subject case, it is suggested that the local police department be contacted with respect to any individuals arrested the previous night. Comparisons of the latent fingerprints on the car with the fingerprints of the arrested individuals have resulted in at least one identification of the subject with the stolen automobile.



## TECHNIQUES AND MECHANICS OF ARREST

A subject was allegedly in a farm house located near the center of a large field. Inasmuch as open space completely surrounded the house, close surveillance of this particular house was impossible and there was no cover for the guiding officers. The New Mexico State Police secured a U. S. Army half truck from an Army Air Base. These Army half trucks have thick armored plating. Four men were placed in the truck, allowing the cars to approach the house and drive directly to the edge of the porch without the officers being exposed to fire without adequate protection.

Sometimes when a dangerous subject is located in a hotel room he is there under an assumed name or under other circumstances which make it inadvisable to wrap on his door and state that there is a message for him and thus prevail upon him to open the door. On one such case, Agents waited in the corridor outside the room in question while another Agent placed through a telephone call to the particular room. The phone rang repeatedly but was never answered. One of the Agents then rapped loudly on the door and after repeated efforts succeeded in arousing the occupant of the room who called out in a sleepy voice. He was informed through the door that his car out back was blocking the delivery entrance and a truck could not get up to the back door. He was asked for his keys as it could be moved. He came to the door and was apprehended.

In one case the fugitive whose home was located in the extreme backwoods section of a Southern state was known to be carrying a shotgun and spread the word around with his neighbors that he would never be taken alive. The subject then retreated to a mountain cave. A number of Agents went to this backwoods section and displayed to the subject's neighbors the various types of firearms used by the Bureau. Fantastic stories were told by the Agents as to the effectiveness of these firearms. The neighbors got word to the subject who became extremely frightened and gave himself up.

An effective method of protection when calling at the door of a person to be interviewed, where the character of the person is unknown or where the person may be dangerous and a firearm is not desirable, is given as follows. The service revolver may be concealed in an Agents' brief case which is carried under the arm with the door and zipper open enough to allow the hand to be inside the brief case, giving the Agent a position almost equal to the hip shooting position. This in no way attracts attention and at least gives the Agent an even chance with a person who carries the door with a gun in his hand.

PHOTOGRAPHY

In a burglary on a government reservation, two latent fingerprints of value were developed. It became necessary to eliminate a great number of suspects in order to get to the Post Exchange where the burglary occurred. The latent fingerprints were dusted, identified, and one package of film exposed which were used to send to the Bureau for evidentiary purposes. Another pair of film was exposed of the latent prints and these films were blown up to an 8 by 10 size. An Agent who had had 15 months of experience in the Identification Division compared these enlarged prints with the fingerprints of the suspects. No actual comparison was attempted but eliminations were made. This tended to expedite the investigation by eliminating hundreds of suspects, as well as serving to lessen the load of comparisons and requests to the Bureau.

INTERVIEW SEARCHES

In a National Cattle Theft Act, it became necessary to cover an especially large area in an automobile to spot, if at all possible, cattle which had been stolen from various ranches in the general vicinity. An Agent, with the cooperation of the commanding officer of an Air Base, obtained two I-5 planes. This particular type of plane can fly as low as 25 feet and they were utilized to search the area for cattle illegally grazing on the range. The Agent also secured an Army truck equipped with a two-way radio making it possible to communicate with the searching planes. When the planes spotted cattle, the information was radioed to the Agent and Army officers accompanying him in the Army truck. The Agent then proceeded to the location in which he was directed by the plane and then photographed the grazing cattle.

In a Japanese espionage case, a small portable radio which could be concealed on the person, was placed on an informant who had a conference with two Jap spies regarding espionage information which the informant supposedly had obtained regarding the U. S. Navy. This conversation was broadcast by the portable radio and recorded in a Bureau automobile about one block away.